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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/893,240	06/26/2001	Jessica M. Barnes	10420/17	4905

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BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, IL 60610

EXAMINER

DIXON, THOMAS A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3639

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/893,240

Applicant(s)

BARNES ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas A. Dixon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment of 5/2/05 has been considered and necessitated the new rejections below.
2. Applicant's arguments that Marjo does not disclose all the features is mistaken, the reference as a whole teaches the concept of sending information regarding passengers from the origin nation to the destination nation and bypassing further processing based on the data was anticipated by Marjo.

As per Claim 1, the system in various forms was implemented in Singapore, Tel Aviv, the United States and Vancouver, see lines 7-24. The entry of the data the second time before departure and verifying identity is seen in line 6, the breezing through to the boarding gate and the camera automatically being used to enter the data (face), verify the identity of the person, and check the manifest to see that the person is a passenger on that plane. Line 11, then refers to the destination, where the passenger again breezes through checkpoints.

As per Claim 3, the scan of the person's image is seen to be recording at the destination country as the image is recorded, even only for a moment, by the camera, and as seen by the discussion of how biometrics works, lines 17-23 a comparison is made between the image and a database, but applicant has changed the claim to "transmitted" which is also seen to be disclosed by Marjo because for the comparison to take place the data must be transmitted to the destination, either by the movement of the card or by the movement of a database file, for the comparison to take place.

As per Claim 4, the carrying of the card is seen to be the recording on the plane, since the card is carried onto the plane.

As per Claim 9, the reason the passenger can breeze through is because seen in the discussion of how biometrics works, lines 17-23 a comparison is made between the image and a database and the fact that the images match allows the passenger to pass the checkpoint.

As per Claim 10, Marjo discloses filling out forms, see page 1, lines 5-6 and lines 15—23, but does not specifically disclose customs forms, any form could be filled out as the form does not functionally change the invention.

As per Claim 11, Marjo discloses the attaching of a tag with biometric information to the baggage to be able to match the baggage with the passenger, to ensure that the passenger has boarded, and it is well known that if a person has not boarded the baggage is removed (routed off the plane), inspection of bags is well known, see Diamond et al ('653).

As per Claim 12, the limitation is not seen as critical to the invention, as seen by claims 13 and 14 that claim no instruction is received, further it is seen that the fact that the passenger can breeze through the checkpoints is an indication that some message is received regarding the passenger's ability/permission to pass and the person would not be detained by airport personnel.

As per Claim 14, the text of lines 19-21 is "These passenger include tourists who must clear customs and immigration prior to proceeding" which is seen to disclose that the requirement to clear customs without notification was known.

As per Claims 15-22.

Claims directed to an Apparatus must be distinguished from the prior art in terms of structure rather than function, *In re Danly* 263 F.2d 844, 847, 120 USPQ 582, 531 (CCPA 1959).

A claim containing a "recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus" if the prior art apparatus teaches all the structural limitations of the claim. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1657 (bd Pat. App. & Inter. 1987).

The structural limitations of claim 15, including computer interfaces, computer memories and recognition software are disclosed in Marjo as described herein.

Also as described the limitations of the claim do not distinguish the claimed apparatus from the prior art.

As per Claim 23, the newly added text is indefinite, but Sweatte ('688) is seen to disclose the actions of airport security personnel (seen to be government officials) in the case of passengers of interest.

As per claim 24, no specific arguments are made.

As per Claim 25, examiner accidentally gave no citation as to filling out forms, but the reference teaches an automated baggage machine (ABM) that takes in information regarding airport of destination, passenger id, see column 3, line 62 – column 4, line 7, which is seen to be a form.

As per Claim 25, examiner accidentally gave an incomplete rejection, new rejection appears below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. Claims 1, 13, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the language of claim 1 is unclear because it requires an instruction in combination with passenger data or the claims 13 and 14 fail to further limit the claim 1, because they state that no instruction is received.

4. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the phrase "routing in accordance with the government or government agent" is confusing, is it the government or government official that the system is interested in or does the routing depend on the evaluation of the baggage inspection record and a determination regarding the baggage inspection record by the government official of the second country?

5. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, it is unclear when or where the customs form is entered, and which of the several memories mentioned are being used to store the data.

6. Claims 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the phrase "depending on the interest in the government official of the second country" is confusing, is it the government official that

the system is interested in or does the further processing depend on the evaluation of the passenger information and a determination regarding the said passenger by the government official of the second country?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

7. Claims 1-9, 12-13, 15-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Marjo "Picking up the Pace. (Biometric technology in air travel)"

As per Claim 1.

Marjo discloses:

entering information identifying the passenger a first time into a computer interface, page 1, lines 5-6;
recording a first electronic image of the passenger, see page 1, lines 8-10;
sending information identifying the passenger to a government or government agent in a destination country, see page 47-54;
entering information identifying the passenger a second time into a computer interface before departure and verifying an identity of the passenger, see page 1, lines 3-10;
recording a second electronic image of the passenger, see page 1, lines 11-19;
comparing the second image to a prior image of the passenger, see page 1, lines 16-19; and
routing the passenger in accordance with the data and an instruction from the government or government agent, see page 1, lines 12 and 47-54.

As per Claim 2.

Marjo further discloses the first electronic image is recorded in an originating country, see page 1, lines 8-10.

As per Claim 3.

Marjo further discloses the second electronic image is recorded in a destination country, see page 1, lines 11-19.

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As per Claim 4.

Marjo further discloses the second electronic image is recorded on an aircraft, see page 1, line 33-35 (i.e. where the passenger goes, the recorded electronic image goes).

As per Claim 5.

Marjo further discloses the electronic image is selected from a group consisting of a photograph, a fingerprint an iris scan and a voiceprint, see page 2, lines 33-34.

As per Claim 6.

Marjo further discloses the entering of flight information for the passenger into the computer interface, see page 1, lines 5-6.

As per Claim 7.

Marjo further discloses retrieving data of passengers scheduled for a flight from a first computer memory and storing the data in a second computer memory, see page 1, lines 8-10 and 33-35.

As per Claim 8.

Marjo further discloses the comparing is performed by a computer with software selected from the groups consisting of feature recognition software, voice recognition software and facial recognition software, see page 1, lines 17-18.

As per Claim 9.

Marjo further discloses taking a subsequent image of the passenger and comparing the subsequent image to the first electronic image, and routing the passenger according to the result of a comparison of the first electronic image and the subsequent image, see page 1, lines 11-12, 17-23.

As per Claim 12.

Marjo further discloses giving the passenger notice of an instruction of the government or government agent, see page 1, lines 48-49.

As per Claim 13.

Marjo further discloses no instruction is received from the government and the passenger is not required to process through customs, see page 1, lines 11-12.

As per Claims 15-22.

Marjo discloses:

a computer interface, see page 1, lines 5-6, and line 13 and memory, see page 1, lines 17-18;

a camera linked to a computer, see page 1, lines 8-10;

feature, voice or facial recognition software, see page 1, lines 17-18.

Also as described the limitations of the claim and its dependents do not distinguish the claimed apparatus from the prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marjo "Picking up the Pace. (Biometric technology in air travel)" in view of Official Notice.

As per Claim 10.

Marjo discloses filling out forms on a computer and sending them to an agent of the government and routing the passenger according to a government or government agent, see page 1, lines 5-6 and lines 15--23, but does not specifically disclose filling out customs declaration forms.

Official Notice is taken that it is old and well known that any type of form can be filled out and sent, therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to fill out a customs declaration form in Marjo's system for the benefit of increased speed of processing through the airport.

9. Claims 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Marjo "Picking up the Pace. (Biometric technology in air travel)" in view of Diamond et al (6,698,653).

As per Claim 11.

Marjo further discloses a tag with memory associated with the baggage, sending the data (tag with baggage) and routing the baggage, see page 2, lines 17-19, but does not disclose electronically inspecting luggage of the passenger, making a record of the electronic inspecting, entering the record into the computer memory, sending to the government or government agent, and routing the baggage in accordance with the government or government agent.

Diamond et al (653) teaches inspecting luggage of the passenger, making a record of the electronic inspecting, entering the record into the computer memory, sending to the government or government agent, and routing the baggage in

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accordance with the government or government agent, see figure 2 (22, 23), figure 6 (78, 79, 84) and figure 9 (134) for the benefit of monitoring that baggage contains no prohibited items and that passengers board the plane with their luggage.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to inspect baggage, enter records into a computer memory and send the data to an agent and route the baggage in accordance with the agent for the benefit of monitoring that baggage contains no prohibited items and that passengers board the plane with their baggage..

10. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marjo

"Picking up the Pace. (Biometric technology in air travel)" in view of applicant's

disclosure.

As per Claim 14.

Marjo does not specifically disclose if no instruction is received from the government or government agent and the passenger is automatically required to process through customs or immigration or both customs and immigration.

Applicant's application, page 1, lines 19-21 teaches that it is old and well known to automatically require the passenger to process through customs and immigration to control the flow of goods and people into a country.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to if no instruction is received from the government or government agent and the passenger is automatically required to process through customs or immigration or both customs and immigration to control the flow of goods and people into a country.

11. Claims 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by

Pugliese, III (6,044,353) in view of Sweatte (6,335,688).

As per Claim 23.

Pugliese, III ('353) discloses a passenger, baggage, and baggage of the passenger, and information concerning the passenger and baggage, see abstract;

gathering information and sending information concerning the passenger and baggage of the passenger, wherein the information concerning the passenger and the baggage of the passenger is automatically gathered and processed, see column 4, lines 16-35;

sending the baggage through an electronic baggage inspection, sending the baggage to the second country, and routing the baggage to a location selected from the group consisting of customs, a baggage claim area, and a connecting flight of a passenger, see column 4, lines 36-52;

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sending the passenger from an origin to a destination, and sending the passenger to further processing selected from the group consisting of customs, immigration and no further processing, see column 4, line 65 – column 5, line 19.

Pugliese III ('353) does not specifically disclose sending the passenger from a first country to the second country, information sent to a government official of a second country and sending a passenger to further processing depending on the interest of a government official of the second country.

Sweatte ('688) teaches notification of immigration or customs, see abstract, for the benefit of letting airline and security personnel know when an unexpected or unwanted event or person is in the system to allow them to determine if they are interested in the passenger.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to notify immigration or customs, as taught by Sweatte, for the benefit of letting airline and security personnel know when an unexpected or unwanted event or person is in the system.

As per Claim 24.

Pugliese, III ('353) further discloses scheduling travel of a passenger and transferring data concerning the passenger from a first computer memory to a second computer memory, see column 5, line 61 – column 6, line 14.

12. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pugliese III (6,044,353) in view of Sweatte (6,335,688) further in view of Official Notice.

As per Claim 25.

Pugliese III ('353) discloses filling out forms on a computer, see column 3, line 62 – column 4, but does not specifically disclose filling out customs declaration forms.

Official Notice is taken that it is old and well known that any type of form can be filled out and sent, therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to fill out a customs declaration form in Pugliese III's system for the benefit of increased speed of processing through the airport.

13. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pugliese III (6,044,353) in view of Sweatte (6,335,688) further in view of applicant's disclosure.

As per Claim 26.

Pugliese, III ('353) does not disclose the passenger proceeds to an immigration booth upon arrival in the second country to automatically verify his or her identification and to receive instructions for proceeding.

Sweatte ('688) teaches automatic verification of identification of persons arriving in a second country and notification of immigration or customs, see abstract, for the benefit of letting airline and security personnel know when an unexpected or unwanted

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event or person is in the system to allow them to determine if they are interested in the passenger.

Applicant's application, page 1, lines 19-21 teaches that it is old and well known to automatically require the passenger to process through customs and immigration to control the flow of goods and people into a country.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to if no instruction is received from the government or government agent and the passenger is automatically required to process through customs or immigration or both customs and immigration to control the flow of goods and people into a country.

Prior Art Made of Record

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

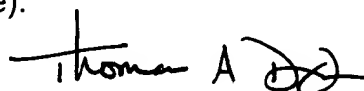
WO 01/09796 to Mann is the closest foreign art and describes the system discussed in Biometrics takes Flight.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Dixon whose telephone number is (571) 272-6803. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6:30 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571) 272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Thomas A. Dixon
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3639

July 05